MINISTRY OF
ATTORNEY
GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT 1998/99

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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ANNUAL REPORT 1998/99

Justice Reform and Corrections

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Province of British Columbia

May It Please Your Honour:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia for the period April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.

The major reform of British Columbia's justice system begun in 1996 has continued with the expansion of existing initiatives and the introduction of new initiatives. This annual report highlights the important role of the Corrections Branch in justice reform.

I believe this report to be an accurate accounting of the Ministry of Attorney General and of the dedicated public servants who administer its programs.

Andrew Petter

The Honourable Andrew Petter
Attorney General

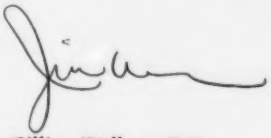
The Honourable Andrew Petter
Attorney General
Province of British Columbia

Sir:

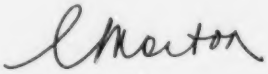
We have the honour to submit the annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1998 and ending March 31, 1999.

This report is an important public record outlining the work of each branch of the ministry and highlighting the ministry's significant achievements over the past year.

The agencies, boards and commissions reported on here are required by statute to report annually, through you, to the legislature. This is not a substitute for those reports. The agencies, boards and commissions will, in the ordinary way, as required, file their own annual reports.



Gillian Wallace, Q.C.
Deputy Attorney General



Cynthia Morton
Deputy Minister

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Part One: Justice Reform

Justice Reform and Corrections

The Ministry of Attorney General began a major reform of British Columbia's justice system in late 1996. The goal of this reform is a justice system that reflects the values and needs of British Columbians, while safeguarding the fundamental principles of:

- fairness to all parties
- accessibility to all community members
- partnership
- efficiency
- effectiveness, and
- affordability.

In reforming the justice system over the coming years, the ministry will be guided by the priorities of public safety and security, effective and affordable conflict resolution, and crime prevention and early intervention.

The Corrections Branch

The Corrections Branch is an integral part of the justice system. The branch is responsible for the operation of adult correctional facilities for offenders sentenced to imprisonment for less than two years, as well as for those remanded to custody pending a court decision.

The branch supervises those individuals under criminal court orders, and operates community correctional programs. It also delivers family justice services.

In response to the ministry's justice reform initiative, in 1997 the Corrections Branch reorganized its programs, resources and responsibilities from a regional model to a functional model. Fully implemented in 1998, this was the most profound organizational change for corrections in B.C. in many years. The reorganization simplified the branch's structure while advancing the goal of providing specialized services to meet community needs across the province.

The branch now consists of four divisions, each with province-wide responsibilities:

- Adult Custody
- Community Corrections
- Family Justice Services
- Strategic Planning and Corporate Programs.

The reorganization of the Corrections Branch also included establishing a new vision of its mandate, identifying strategic initiatives, and defining a new

mission statement, which is "to protect the community through offender management, offender control and conflict resolution."

Criminal justice reform

The Ministry of Attorney General's first two goals for reform in B.C.'s criminal justice system are to:

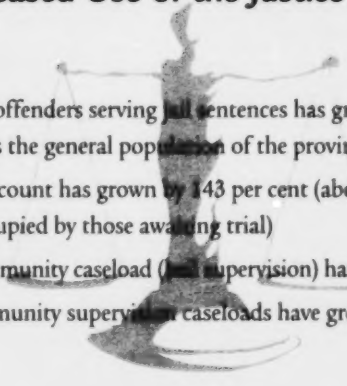
- employ the full weight of the traditional system to protect the public from high-risk, violent offenders
- ensure that offenders are held accountable for their actions and that victims' voices are heard in the criminal process.

In addition to addressing these goals, the Corrections Branch has faced the challenge of increases in the number of adults being managed both in institutions and the community (through bail supervision, probation, parole and electronic monitoring). In the first eight years of the 1990s, the community caseload increased by 87 per cent, and the institutional count increased by 29 per cent. With no corresponding increase in resources, and with increasing public expectations, the branch installed double bunks in institutions and increased supervision caseloads in the community. It was clear, however, that these approaches could not be effective over the long term, and that new strategies were required.

Increased Use of the Justice System

Since 1990/91:

- the number of offenders serving jail sentences has grown at approximately the same rate as the general population of the province
- the pretrial jail count has grown by 143 per cent (about two-thirds of secure jail space is occupied by those awaiting trial)
- the pretrial community caseload (bail supervision) has grown by 240 per cent
- sentenced community supervision caseloads have grown by 54 per cent.



The Changing Profile of Offenders in B.C.

- The age and complexity of offenders are increasing: 15 years ago, almost half of all admissions to community supervision or custody were 18- to 24-year-olds; now almost two-thirds are 25- to 45-year-olds.
- A greater proportion of these offenders have histories of violence and have been involved in crime and corrections for longer periods.
- More than half of community correctional resources are now devoted to the management of sex offenders and spousal assault offenders.
- There is also increasing use of detention for mentally disordered offenders and substance abusers.

The Corrections Branch's response to these challenges was the implementation in 1997 of an integrated approach to the management of its programs and offenders. This began with the reorganization of the branch into functional divisions; it has continued with the development of new tools and practices to improve the monitoring of offenders, reduce the risk of offenders re-offending, and increase efficiency. The main components of this approach are:

- enhanced use of risk assessment tools to focus court and correctional resources on high-risk violent offenders
- educational treatment readiness core programs tailored to address those factors that give rise to an offender's criminal behaviours.

Risk/needs assessment

Risk/needs assessment (RNA) has become the backbone of integrated offender management. Institutional and community corrections staff now rely on assessment tools for consistent and uniform measurements of factors related to offender needs and risks. RNA helps staff to identify:

- the offender's likelihood of re-offending
- the appropriate custody or supervision level
- the factors contributing to criminal conduct
- a focused offender management plan.

The offender's risk of re-offending can be reduced most effectively when the level of risk is matched with the

appropriate core programs. RNA is also an essential part of assessing the effectiveness of those interventions.

Rehabilitation programs

The branch is developing and implementing eight core programs that are designed to promote long-term changes in the thinking, skills and lifestyles that are known to contribute to crime among serious offenders. The first program, Breaking Barriers, was put in place in 1998/99 in most adult custody centres. This program is a motivational program designed to assist offenders in understanding factors that hinder and help long-term changes.

Two other programs, substance abuse and violence prevention, are under development, with implementation planned for the 1999/2000 fiscal year. The remaining programs will be developed as the initial programs are implemented.

The programs are designed to work in tandem with risk/needs assessments, and will allow resources to be channeled into working with high-risk and violent offenders, while still addressing the needs of other offenders. The programs will be delivered in a standard and complementary manner in both community and institutional settings, to ensure that they are effective.

Criminal justice reform initiatives

- A new offender tracking system, CORNET, consolidates institutional, community and historical information on all offenders in the provincial corrections system. It will also incorporate risk assessments on all high-risk offenders and monitor the progress of offenders through core programs. This automated system will enable the branch to produce reliable and timely information, reducing overlap and redundancy. It will also assist the Corrections Branch in evaluating the effectiveness of the core programming initiative. Implementation of CORNET is planned for early in 1999/2000.
- The Corrections Branch continues to promote a strong proactive stance against illegal drugs in correctional centres through its Drug Interdiction Strategy. The program has expanded the use of drug dogs and ion scanners to detect the presence of contraband. In addition, no-contact visits have been introduced in secure centres to prevent the passing of contraband between visitors and inmates.
- The branch is working with mental health officials to more effectively deal with mentally disordered offenders (inmates with mental disorders who have been charged with or convicted of criminal offences). As part of the strategy, appropriate mentally disordered offenders may be diverted from the

criminal justice systems, if viable alternatives can be identified.

- The new North Fraser Pretrial Centre in Port Coquitlam will provide an additional 300 secure beds to ensure that the branch is able to keep up with future increases in inmates, and to alleviate overcrowding.
- A comprehensive review of Community Risk/Needs Assessment will assess its validity and reliability.
- The implementation and effectiveness of core programs will be evaluated in future years.

The Core Programs Initiative

The Corrections Branch's core programs initiative involves the development and implementation of eight core programs designed to foster long-term internal controls and changes in offenders. The eight programs are:

- Motivational program (Breaking Barriers)—helps offenders recognize that change is possible and worthwhile and learn how to overcome barriers to change
- Anger management program (Violence Prevention)—helps offenders recognize differences between anger and violence, analyse sources of anger, and identify non-violent resolutions
- Substance abuse program (Substance Abuse Management)—helps offenders identify the nature, causes and consequences of addiction and outline the path to recovery
- Family violence program—identifies the features of healthy and unhealthy relationships and the precursors to violence, and helps offenders develop plans to prevent relapse
- Cognitive skills program—improves thinking skills related to problem avoidance, such as analysing problems, considering options and consequences, and making decisions
- Living skills program—helps offenders prepare for the job market, obtain accommodation, and manage income
- Sex offender program—teaches offenders about sexuality, the impact of abuse on victims, the cycle of offending, and relapse prevention
- Educational upgrading program—provides a firm footing in basic education and literacy skills

Family justice reform

The Ministry of Attorney General's goals for family justice reform include:

- promoting timely and just resolution of civil/family disputes that are affordable for individuals and the system as a whole
- ensuring that women and children receive the financial support to which they are entitled.

The Corrections Branch reorganization in 1997/98 saw the creation of the Family Justice Services Division as a distinct entity within the branch. The goal of the division is to promote the timely and just resolution of family/marital disputes outside of the traditional court system.

Specialized family justice services followed the separation in 1996 of the duties of family justice counsellors from those of probation officers. (They had been combined since 1972, when the ministry assumed responsibility for the administration of family courts from the municipalities.) The move to specialization is a response to the need for a dedicated focus in assisting families who are experiencing difficult transitions.

The Family Justice Services Division has committed a majority of its resources to collaborative dispute resolution in dealing with family issues. The division operates family justice centres in 31 locations across the province. Following a screening for the incidence of family violence, these centres offer dispute resolution services to families undergoing separation or divorce, with a priority on providing services for parents who are financially eligible for legal aid and for parents of modest means. In addition to encouraging, where appropriate, non-litigated settlements between couples who are experiencing marital breakdown or conflict regarding custody and access, family justice centres co-ordinate information programs for separating parents, and provide parents with practical assistance in dealing with child support court orders and written agreements.

Family justice counsellors provide a limited number of court-ordered child custody and access assessments and reports to assist both the provincial and Supreme courts. Priority is given to assessments ordered where one or both parties are not represented by legal counsel or where legal counsel is appointed by Legal Aid.

Family justice initiatives

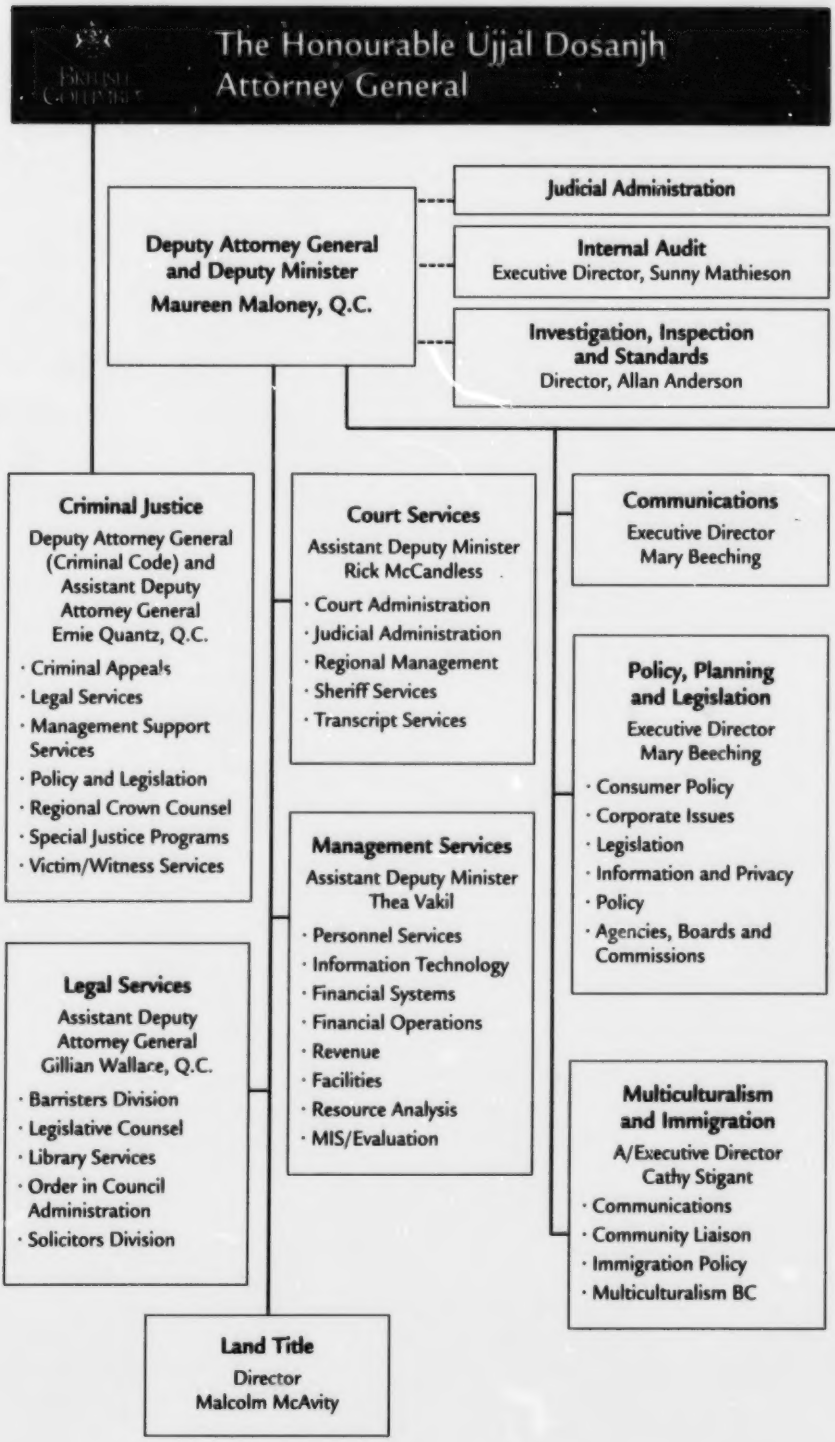
- Parenting After Separation programs are available in many communities in the province, and are free for any parent. The program's aim is to provide increased support for families whose lives are disrupted by separation, through a three-hour information session that informs

parents of the full range of available family dispute resolution options, including alternatives to the traditional court process. A pilot project that began in June 1998 in Burnaby and New Westminster will require parents to attend a Parenting After Separation session before a provincial court date for their dispute will be set.

- The Family Justice Registry pilot project began on December 1, 1998, in five provincial court registries (Vancouver, Surrey, Rossland, Nelson and Castlegar). The focus is on a family court case management scheme designed to increase the availability of early, collaborative and non-adversarial settlement opportunities.

Review

These reform measures will be subject to review and evaluation in future fiscal years.


The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh
Attorney General
Deputy Attorney General and Deputy Minister
Maureen Maloney, Q.C.
Judicial Administration
Internal Audit
Executive Director, Sunny Mathieson
Investigation, Inspection and Standards
Director, Allan Anderson
Criminal Justice
Deputy Attorney General (Criminal Code) and Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Ernie Quantz, Q.C.
· Criminal Appeals
· Legal Services
· Management Support Services
· Policy and Legislation
· Regional Crown Counsel
· Special Justice Programs
· Victim/Witness Services
Court Services
Assistant Deputy Minister
Rick McCandless
· Court Administration
· Judicial Administration
· Regional Management
· Sheriff Services
· Transcript Services
Communications
Executive Director
Mary Beeching
Policy, Planning and Legislation
Executive Director
Mary Beeching
· Consumer Policy
· Corporate Issues
· Legislation
· Information and Privacy
· Policy
· Agencies, Boards and Commissions
Management Services
Assistant Deputy Minister
Thea Vakil
· Personnel Services
· Information Technology
· Financial Systems
· Financial Operations
· Revenue
· Facilities
· Resource Analysis
· MIS/Evaluation
Legal Services
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Gillian Wallace, Q.C.
· Barristers Division
· Legislative Counsel
· Library Services
· Order in Council Administration
· Solicitors Division
Multiculturalism and Immigration
A/Executive Director
Cathy Stigant
· Communications
· Community Liaison
· Immigration Policy
· Multiculturalism BC
Land Title
Director
Malcolm McAvity

Independent Agencies, Boards and Commissions

- B.C. Board of Parole
- B.C. Coroners Service
- B.C. Human Rights Commission
- B.C. Human Rights Tribunal
- B.C. Review Board
- Children's Commission
- Commercial Appeals Commission
- Expropriation Compensation Board
- Liquor Appeal Board
- Motion Picture Appeal Board
- Office of the Public Trustee

Corrections
Assistant Deputy Minister
Don Demers

- Adult Custody
- Community Corrections
- Family Justice Services
- Strategic Planning and Corporate Programs

Community Justice
Assistant Deputy Minister
Alison MacPhail

- ADR/Mediation
- Consumer Services
- Core Funding
- Crime Prevention
- FMEP/REMO
- Justice Development
- Legal Aid
- Native Courtworkers
- Police Victim Assistance
- Victim Assistance
- Wife Assault
- Youth Programs

Public Safety and Regulatory
Assistant Deputy Minister
Stephen Stackhouse

- Aboriginal Justice
- Criminal Records Review
- Film Classification
- Gaming Audit Investigations Office
- Police Services
- Provincial Emergency Program
- RCMP Contract Administration
- Security Programs

Liquor Control and Licensing
General Manager
Robert Simson

Part Two: Programs and Services

Communications Branch

Executive Director: Mary Beeching

The Communications Branch manages the ministry's communications activities, including researching and analysing the information needs of ministry programs, services and major initiatives.

The branch creates and executes strategic ministry communications plans and develops and distributes public information materials, pamphlets and brochures for both staff and the general public.

Along with the branches involved, the Communications Branch manages:

- media relations
- issues management
- news releases
- news conferences
- special events.

The branch is also responsible for:

- ministry advertising and promotions
- assessing public response to ministry programs
- the ministry Web site
- monitoring and evaluating ministry communications activities.

Community Justice Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Alison MacPhail

The Community Justice Branch helps to ensure that British Columbians have timely access to justice and consumer services and resolution of residential tenancy disputes. The branch develops, manages and supports locally appropriate crime prevention, justice reform, community safety and consumer protection services. It serves the public directly through crime prevention, family maintenance enforcement, victim assistance, consumer protection and residential tenancy dispute resolution programs. It also funds and administers various contracts for justice-related services, and contributes substantial funding to the Legal Services Society to ensure that legal aid services are available throughout the province.

Community Programs Division

The Community Programs Division supports the implementation and development of community-based crime and violence prevention programs and projects and justice initiatives across the province. The programs foster youth and community involvement at all levels and rely on partnerships with police, schools, businesses and the community. The programs aim to prevent youth crime, violence and victimization, and to work in partnership with communities and key stakeholders to enhance community safety, support crime and violence prevention efforts, and implement community justice initiatives.

The division provides services in four major areas:

- prevention of community crime and violence
- prevention of youth crime, violence and victimization
- prevention of youth sexual exploitation, and prevention and addressing of community issues arising from prostitution
- implementation of and support for community justice initiatives.

Key accomplishments

- contributed approximately $3,000,000 for community justice services
- spent approximately $500,000 on community crime prevention
- under the Community Accountability Program (CAP),

provided start-up funding for 35 communities and held six training workshops for CAP volunteers and practitioners

- under the umbrella of the Safe School/Safe Communities Initiative, developed and released the Safe School Kit and the Safe School Planning Guide and held four of six regional training workshops for educators, school administrators and community members
- developed more than 200 youth-led crime and violence prevention projects across the province
- supported community action on addressing and preventing youth sexual exploitation and prostitution

Family Justice Programs Division

The Family Justice Programs Division is responsible for:

- the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP)—enrols, monitors and enforces maintenance orders and registered agreements that require individuals to provide their families with continuing financial support
- the Reciprocals Program—has a statutory responsibility to decide on the appropriate court within B.C., and transmits documents to reciprocating jurisdictions for the purposes of confirming, varying and enforcing maintenance orders and agreements
- the Family Search Service—has statutory authority to search for missing individuals to obtain, vary or enforce custody, access, guardianship or maintenance orders
- the Debtor Assistance Program—provides individuals and families experiencing financial difficulties with counselling; information regarding debtor/creditor rights, remedies and obligations; mediation of disputes; and reports to the courts
- the Client Relations Program—provides information and investigates complaints about the programs of the Family Justice Programs Division.

Key accomplishments

- collected $104.2 million of $139.1 million, or 75 per cent, of family maintenance payments due, compared with 69–70 per cent over the four previous years
- reduced complaints about and improved rates of satisfaction with FMEP through the introduction of an effective complaints handling system, ongoing collaboration with the Ombudsman and MLAs' constituency offices, and the use of technology to handle the large volume of calls received by the program

- in conjunction with the Forest Community Transition Secretariat, held debt counselling workshops in the communities of Gold River and Tahsis

Justice Programs Division

The Justice Programs Division ensures that legal services for needy British Columbians are available everywhere in the province and are provided in the most effective and efficient ways possible. To accomplish this, the division:

- manages the ministry's funding contributions to the Legal Services Society
- liaises with the society, other government and non-government organizations, and the public.

Key accomplishments

- contributed $81.5 million to the Legal Services Society to provide legal aid and public legal education for British Columbians
- 51,738 applications for legal counsel were approved by the Legal Services Society for financially eligible British Columbians with criminal, family, civil or immigration legal problems
- 61,058 people received duty counsel services in courts across the province
- 27,248 persons who were arrested and detained were able to access legal advice through the 24-hour toll-free Brydges line

Residential Tenancy Division

Six Residential Tenancy Division offices encourage and actively promote harmonious relationships in the rental community by providing:

- information services for landlords and tenants to assist them in residential tenancy matters
- dispute resolution interventions where clients request assistance
- mediations for clients in manufactured home parks
- arbitration hearings for clients who are unable to resolve their own disputes.

Key accomplishments

- held almost 22,000 hearings without delays or backlogs
- amended the Residential Tenancy Act to bring greater fairness to both landlords and tenants by:
  - ending retroactive rent reviews for manufactured home parks
  - improving consistency in arbitrators' decisions
  - enhancing the ability of arbitrators to craft resolution of disputes in a timely and efficient manner,
  - raising fine limits for offences under the act
- adopted a review method that simplifies the process of increasing rents on manufactured home pads,

while taking into account a park owner's legitimate costs for operating the park and a homeowner's interest in maintaining stability of rent increases

- produced a set of interpretation guidelines to help arbitrators render consistent decisions, information officers assist clients, and the public to better understand the law that is likely to be applied to a particular residential tenancy dispute

Consumer Services Division

The Consumer Services Division promotes fairness and understanding in the marketplace by developing and enforcing consumer legislation, which includes both consumer protection and industry regulation. The division also administers a variety of acts, including:

- Cemetery and Funeral Services Act
- Consumer Protection Act
- Credit Reporting Act
- Debt Collection Act
- Guide Animal Act
- Motor Dealer Act
- Multilevel Marketing Regulation Act
- Sale of Goods Act
- Trade Practices Act
- Travel Agents Act.

Key accomplishments

- obtained an estimated $4,133,388 in monetary restitution for consumers, compared with approximately $1,355,707 in 1997/98 and $1,192,000 in 1996/97
- as an active member of the RCMP Commercial Crime Division's Telemarketing Task Force, cracked down on more deceptive telemarketing organizations in the Lower Mainland
- participated in the official launch of the CANSHARE information network, an Internet-based system that allows B.C. consumer protection and law enforcement agencies to share information with other provinces on current consumer issues and complaints
- under the Motor Dealer Customer Compensation Fund, compensated 20 consumers who suffered a loss as a result of business failure, dishonest behavior or failure to provide clear title by a motor dealer, for a total amount of $170,059
- under the Travel Assurance Fund, approved 323 claims made by 763 consumers who had prepaid for travel services with a B.C.-registered travel agency but did not receive the service, for a total amount of $410,037

Victim Services Division

The Victim Services Division works to make the justice system more responsive to the needs of crime victims and to facilitate collaboration among systems to ensure a more integrated approach to meeting those needs. The division:

- is responsible for the Criminal Injury Compensation Program and for implementing the Victims of Crime Act
- funds police- and community-based victim service programs throughout B.C.
- funds the province-wide toll-free Victim Information Line, which provides victims of crime with information and referrals to services and programs in their community
- funds local co-ordinating committees addressing violence against women and provides other unfunded co-ordinating committees with support through training of victim service workers and the development and distribution of training curriculum and other print resources
- co-ordinates the development of policy in the areas of violence against women in relationships, sexual assault, and violence against children and youth, and provides justice system personnel with training in these areas.

Key accomplishments

- victim service programs provided emotional support, information about the criminal justice system, and court orientation for more than 46,626 victims of crime, with more than 893 volunteers donating 248,036 hours to provide support services
- allocated revenues from the Victim Fine Surcharge Special Account to:
  - Criminal Justice Branch for 34 additional victim service workers needed to provide court-related information and assistance
  - Corrections Branch for the purchase of an automated victim notification system
  - Community Justice Branch for the funding of 13 new victim service programs, additional funding for two existing programs, and the training of victim service workers, and for funding legal representation for sexual assault victims facing disclosure applications under Bill C-46 (an amendment to the Criminal Code that restricts access to medical, counselling, therapeutic and other personal records of complainants in sexual offence prosecutions)
  - B.C. Neurotrauma Fund for services and projects related to spinal cord injuries

- provided funding to assist the Vancouver Police Department in tracking violence against women in relationship cases reaching the Vancouver Police Department and the Domestic Violence Unit
- through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program, provided victims of crime, those who were criminally injured at work, and immediate family members of deceased victims with more than $18 million in benefits and compensation

Corrections Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Don Demers

The Corrections Branch delivers provincial correctional programs and family justice services. The three main priorities for the branch are to:

- ensure safe communities
- provide opportunities for offenders to change
- assist families in resolving conflict.

Adult Custody Division

The Adult Custody Division operates 19 adult correctional centres. The seven secure, two medium, eight specialized and two community correctional centres provide appropriate levels of custody and core programming for offenders awaiting trial or serving a provincial custodial sentence.

Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women provides for women sentenced to provincial and federal custody in B.C. Federal offenders are accommodated through an exchange of services agreement with Correctional Services Canada.

Community Corrections Division

The Community Corrections Division operates 63 probation offices in communities throughout B.C. Probation officers assess and supervise adult accused persons and offenders to ensure compliance with conditions imposed by the courts and provincial releasing authorities. Supervision is provided for bail, probation, conditional sentence or conditional release programs. On any given day, the division supervises approximately 21,000 offenders.

Conditional release programs include the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) and the supervision of parolees released by the B.C. Parole Board.

The division provides the courts with reports about and assessments of adult offenders, victims and sentencing options. The division also administers victim restitution, community work service and diversion programs.

Family Justice Services Division

The Family Justice Services Division operates family justice centres in 31 communities throughout B.C. Family justice counsellors assist families who are going through a separation and need help resolving child custody and access issues as well as issues of child and spousal maintenance.

The division provides dispute resolution services and custody and access reports, primarily for families of modest means. Parenting After Separation programs are delivered province-wide and are available to all separating parents at no cost.

Strategic Planning and Corporate Programs

The Strategic Planning and Corporate Programs Division provides the branch as a whole with support, advice and co-ordination, and assists in the development, implementation and evaluation of the branch's strategic plan. The division is responsible for research, data, information systems, and budget and contract administration.

Key accomplishments

- continued to develop the operating program for the Vancouver jail project, which has promoted collaboration among Vancouver police, defence bar, federal Crown and the ministry, as well as technological innovation for managing offenders from arrest to court appearance
- developed building plans and completed construction of a secure fence to allow the Ford Mountain Correctional Centre (Chilliwack Valley), currently a 60-bed camp, to become a medium security centre, with the addition of 28 beds by January 2000
- prepared for construction of the new North Fraser Pretrial Centre in Port Coquitlam, which will provide an additional 300 secure beds to ensure that the branch is able to keep up with future increases in inmates, and to alleviate overcrowding
- implemented the motivational core program, Breaking Barriers, in all correctional centres, and began implementation of the anger management and substance abuse management core programs in secure and medium custody centres
- for the first time, contracted with a single company for the delivery of food services to all 19 correctional centres across the province, ensuring consistent menus and quality food services as well as cost savings for taxpayers

Court Services Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: R.C. McCandless

The Court Services Branch provides and maintains courthouse facilities, registry and trial support services, and sheriff services for the civil and criminal courts of B.C.

Regional Court Operations

Through its five regional offices across the province, the Court Services Branch administers B.C.'s 67 provincial courts, 32 Supreme Courts and five Appeal Courts. These offices provide:

- regional management
- court administration—including document processing, court files maintenance, audio tape management, maintenance of video-conferencing facilities, management of court facilities, and general administration inside the courtroom
- judicial administration—including the provision of justice of the peace services, Supreme and small claims court registrars, and, in some locations, scheduling of trials
- sheriff services—including court security, prisoner escort and holding, and jury management.

Branch Headquarters

Branch Headquarters provides planning and development services in areas such as corporate planning and policy, financial management, business development, resource analysis and management information.

Key accomplishments

- assisted in implementing the JUSTIN case tracking system in Port Coquitlam, and in planning for conversion to JUSTIN at the Vancouver Provincial Court
- installed video-conferencing equipment in the Vancouver Supreme Court, the Prince George Law Courts, the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre, and the Penticton, Fort St. John and Terrace courthouses
- developed and released Building our Future, a comprehensive business plan designed to focus and guide the development of the branch
- participated in development of the Vancouver jail project through a partnership involving the Vancouver police, defence bar, federal Crown and the ministry

Criminal Justice Branch

Assistant Deputy Attorney General: Ernie Quantz, Q.C.

The Criminal Justice Branch is responsible for prosecuting offences under:

- the Criminal Code of Canada
- the Young Offenders Act
- provincial statutes, and
- certain municipal bylaws

in the provincial, Supreme and Appeal Courts of B.C. and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Throughout the prosecution process, the branch offers services to victims of crime who have suffered emotional or physical trauma, by addressing their needs for information, court preparation and referral to the appropriate community agencies.

Branch Headquarters

Crown counsel at Branch Headquarters:

- provide the attorney general, Crown counsel, other government ministries and the police with expert legal advice on criminal law matters
- develop policies and procedures relating to the prosecution of criminal cases
- participate in the development of federal and provincial legislation
- perform prosecution functions in such specialized areas as constitutional challenges to legislation and civil disobedience
- prosecute cases in both official languages of Canada when required to do so.

Criminal Appeals Office

Crown counsel in the Criminal Appeals Office conduct criminal appeals before the B.C. Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Key accomplishments

- argued cases in the Supreme Court of Canada relating to the defence of automatism, the meaning to be given the term "unreasonable verdict," the interpretation of the new sentencing provisions found in Part XXIII of the Criminal Code, and the constitutionality of the offence of possessing child pornography
- implemented alternative measures, a pre-trial procedure where Crown counsel may divert lower-risk alleged offenders away from the traditional court system to an agency or contractor
- seconded a number of Crown counsel to an Air India Charge Approval Office established in

Vancouver to review the RCMP investigation into the 1985 bombing of Air India flight 182 and to determine whether the evidence meets the ministry's charge approval standards

- assisted in the implementation in Port Coquitlam of a fully integrated version of the JUSTIN provincial case-tracking system, connecting police, Crown counsel and the Court Services Branch
- facilitated the wishes of a victim of sexual abuse at a residential school and of her Aboriginal community for a healing circle, rather than continuing in the court system toward an uncertain outcome (the case had been before courts for nearly a decade without a resolution)

Land Title Branch

Director: J.P. Malcolm McAvity

The Land Title Branch registers ownership of land using the Torrens Land Title Registration System. This system ensures security of title and other interests of land, such as mortgages, life estates, leases, rights of way, easements and liens registered against the land. The branch also provides for the maintenance and continued development of land title computer systems, which allows for ready access to land title information.

Key accomplishments

- received 881,723 applications and collected more than $35 million in registration, search and copy fees
- in partnership with the B.C. Assessment Authority, developed an online service for survey plans, with more than 400,000 legal survey plans now converted from a microfilm-based medium to an electronic format

Legal Services Branch

Assistant Deputy Attorney General: Gillian Wallace, Q.C.

The Legal Services Branch advises the B.C. government and its ministers and officials on all civil law matters.

Barristers Division

Lawyers in the Barristers Division appear for government ministries and agencies in every level of court and before tribunals, inquests, arbitrations and other hearings. The division consists of two practice groups:

- barristers in the Civil Litigation Group, who:
  - conduct litigation on behalf of government
  - represent government in arbitration
  - appear at inquiries and some inquests
- barristers in the Constitutional and Administrative Law Group, who:
  - provide legal advice and opinions on constitutional and administrative law issues, and issues related to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
  - represent government in litigation related to constitutional issues, legal proceedings that review decisions made by public officials, and hearings before the Information and Privacy Commissioner
  - participate in legal proceedings under the Expropriation Act.

Solicitors Division

Lawyers in the Solicitors Division provide legal advice on government operations, legislation and potential lawsuits. Other responsibilities include:

- providing government with legal advice on Aboriginal issues, including advice to government negotiators in the treaty process
- representing the government at tribunal hearings and appearing at some inquests
- working with ministries and legislative counsel to prepare government bills, regulations, orders in counsel and ministerial orders
- advising government on international and domestic banking and investment transactions and on large-scale commercial and land transactions
- serving as client service co-ordinators, responsible for working with client

ministries to identify and meet each ministry's need for legal services
- advising on and drafting government contracts
- assisting barristers in litigation
- conducting specialized litigation (e.g., tax and insolvency).

Key accomplishments

- provided government with legal advice on the implications and effects of the decision in Delgamuukw and related Aboriginal litigation
- provided legal advice and support for the completion of the Nisga'a Final Agreement and the ratification of that agreement by the legislative assembly
- successfully defended in the B.C. Court of Appeal against test-case constitutional challenges (division of powers and Charter of Rights) to the Administrative Driving Prohibition program (leave has been sought to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada)
- successfully defended a Charter of Rights challenge in the B.C. Court of Appeal against the validity of a requirement to provide information as a condition for qualifying for income assistance
- successfully resisted a challenge in the Supreme Court of Canada by an Aboriginal band to BC Hydro's tax-exempt status as an agent of the provincial Crown
- successfully resisted a charter challenge in the Supreme Court of Canada to the authority of a review board under the Criminal Code to consider the safety-of-the-public standard in deciding whether to release from custody a person found not criminally responsible by reason of mental disorder

Office of the Legislative Counsel

Lawyers in the Office of the Legislative Counsel:

- draft all government bills for introduction into the legislative assembly
- draft regulations and orders in council for the government
- advise government on legislative initiatives proposed by individual ministries, legislative procedure, and the conduct of government business in the legislative assembly.

The office also includes:

- the Registrar of Regulations, who is responsible for maintaining records and arranging formal publication of all regulations made under the authority of provincial legislation

- the Order in Council Administration Office, which is responsible for maintaining the registry of orders in council
- the Publications Group, which is responsible for preparing all statutory publications for the Province in conjunction with the Queen's printer.

Key accomplishments

- drafted 49 bills for the 1999 legislative session, including:
  - Nisga'a Final Agreement Act
  - Strata Property Act
  - Regulatory Impact Statement Act
  - Company Act
  - Unclaimed Property Act
  - Public Sector Pension Plans Act
  - Co-operative Association Act

Management and Administrative Services Division

The Management and Administrative Services Division provides the branch with corporate support services, including:

- administration of all contracts for legal services
- allocation and use of branch resources
- provision of research services through the Law Library and the Aboriginal Research Centre.

Liquor Control and Licensing Branch

General Manager: Robert C. Simson

The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch is a self-financing regulatory agency responsible for:

- licensing the manufacture of liquor
- licensing the sale of liquor by licensed establishments (such as bars, lounges, pubs, cabarets, neighborhood pubs, and restaurants)
- supervising the conduct of licensees.

This responsibility includes the authority to determine:

- whether or not an establishment will be licensed
- hours of operation
- what entertainment will be permitted
- how many patrons will be allowed
- the type of liquor that may be sold
- the minimum size of the establishment
- other matters, such as the ability to make structural alterations.

The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch works closely with police, courts and other representatives of the legal community on matters of public safety, such as over-service by licensees leading to intoxication, service to minors, and illicit alcohol. The branch also works with local government to ensure that community standards are upheld.

The sale and distribution of liquor within B.C. is the responsibility of the Liquor Distribution Branch, which falls within the purview of the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

Key accomplishments

- through a joint initiative with police and other regulatory agencies to control the importation, manufacture and sale of illicit liquor within the province, inspected 239 licensed establishments, seizing liquor from 134 establishments and taking samples for analysis from 114 establishments, resulting in the suspension of 29 liquor licenses for up to 30 days and warnings issued to a further 31 establishments
- hired three new inspectors to serve the Lower Mainland and one to serve the interior of the province, based in Williams Lake, decreasing the average caseload of licensees per inspector and increasing the amount of time spent on compliance

- a major review of liquor regulations and policy generated 130 recommendations affecting 60 sections and subsections of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, which will be implemented over the next three to four years

Management Services Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Thea Vakil

The Management Services Branch assists the ministry's Executive Committee and its managers in meeting program objectives and adhering to government and ministry-wide policies and directives.

The branch consists of six divisions:

- Facilities Services Division
- Finance and Administration Division
- Personnel Services Division
- Management Information and Evaluation Division
- Resource Planning and Analysis Division
- Information Technology Services Division.

Key accomplishments

- under the guidance of the Supportive Workplace Committee (a sub-committee of the Executive Committee), developed a ministry human resource strategy intended to provide Executive Committee with the ability to direct the prioritization of all human resource development projects in conjunction with major operational initiatives
- developed a corporate training strategy, which calls for the development of annual training plans to direct training and development towards the ministry's strategic and business goals
- implemented performance management programs for all management staff in three branches of the ministry, and planned for implementation in all other branches

Multiculturalism and Immigration Branch

Executive Director: Cathy Stigant

The Multiculturalism and Immigration Branch:

- is responsible for promoting multiculturalism and the elimination of racism in British Columbian society
- aims to achieve the social and economic integration of immigrants to B.C. and to determine fiscal and social responsibility of the governments of Canada and B.C. with regard to immigration.

The branch carries out its business within the overall context of multiculturalism as defined by the B.C. Multiculturalism Act, which recognizes the multicultural heritage and diversity in our society, promotes cross-cultural understanding and the elimination of racism, and encourages a society that achieves the full participation of all British Columbians in the economic, social and civic life of the province.

Key business functions for the branch include:

- taking a lead role in promoting and implementing the B.C. Multiculturalism Act throughout the province
- managing the impact of immigration in the province in order to maximize social and economic benefits, with a focus on implementing the Canada/B.C. Agreement for Co-operation on Immigration and on increasing B.C.'s authority over fundamental aspects of Canada's immigration system.

Communications Division

The Communications Division's mandate is to increase the public's awareness of and support for the social and economic benefits of multiculturalism and immigration to B.C. by developing:

- effective communications strategies for the government's multiculturalism and immigration programs
- education and outreach projects that inform the public about branch initiatives and programs and promote such events as B.C. Multiculturalism Week and March 21: Day for the Elimination of Racism.

The division also provides the branch with services including writing, editing, publication production, media/public relations and event management.

Key accomplishments

- hosted an outdoor festival at the Vancouver Art Gallery with the Vancouver Multicultural Society to launch Multiculturalism Week
- developed the Ministry Responsible for Multiculturalism and Immigration's Web site, which features information in 11 languages
- implemented a new graphic design standard, and produced and distributed more than 20 publications

Community Liaison Division

The Community Liaison Division:

- provides a community-based focus for the government's funding programs and initiatives related to integration in our communities, including cross-cultural understanding, anti-racism, and the successful settlement of newcomers
- works in partnership with non-profit community organizations, government ministries, and private funding bodies to achieve the government's multicultural and immigration settlement and integration objectives

Key accomplishments

- under various programs, awarded:
  - $750,000 to 29 registered non-profit organizations with anti-racism or multicultural mandates or that deliver settlement services to immigrants
  - $2,588,721 to 49 organizations that support the successful settlement and integration of new immigrants into our communities
  - $1,071,000 to 79 organizations to conduct public education programs and initiatives that promote cross-cultural understanding, the elimination of racism, and the full participation of all individuals in B.C.
- supported 159 heritage language schools that instruct 21,300 students in 26 different languages, and six professional development projects for heritage language teachers
- in consultation with other ministries and community-based organizations, developed a redesigned settlement services delivery plan, based on the transfer of funding from the federal government in 1999/2000
- in collaboration with various non-profit organizations and the City of Vancouver, developed a long-term strategy for co-operation and co-ordination of services within the Vietnamese community in Vancouver

- conducted a demographic analysis of African communities in the Lower Mainland, and, in partnership with community organizations, initiated a strategy to address the needs of these communities

Immigration Policy, Planning and Research Division

Responsibility for immigration is shared by the federal and provincial governments. Citizenship and Immigration Canada maintains overall authority for the selection and admission of immigrants to the country. The Immigration Policy, Planning and Research Division co-ordinates all other provincial immigration matters. The division:

- develops provincial immigration policy
- develops, co-ordinates and promotes B.C. policies and programs across government to maximize the social and economic benefits of immigration
- consults with ministries affected by immigration through the Inter-ministry Working Group on Immigration.

Key accomplishments

- completed negotiations on the Canada/B.C. Agreement for Co-operation on Immigration, signed on May 28, 1998, transferring funds and responsibility for the design, delivery and administration of settlement services from Canada to the province
- in partnership with immigrant-serving agencies, developed the Settlement Services Information System (SISS), a comprehensive information system that will provide client and service activity data across agencies, assisting the ministry in determining the effectiveness of its settlement services in meeting its clients' needs
- co-ordinated and prepared B.C.'s response to Citizenship and Immigration Canada's comprehensive initiative to reform the Immigration Act and federal immigration policy

Multiculturalism BC

Multiculturalism BC administers and implements the goals of the Multiculturalism Act of B.C. through its three program areas: organizational change, multiculturalism and anti-racism. Multiculturalism BC:

- develops and co-ordinates provincial multiculturalism policies and programs
- supports the inter-ministerial and Crown corporation committees on multiculturalism and the Advisory Council on Multiculturalism

- works in partnership with public institutions and non-profit organizations to develop and implement initiatives in multiculturalism to better serve the needs of B.C.'s culturally diverse population
- addresses racism and promotes cross-cultural understanding through public education programs.

Key accomplishments

- supported a youth anti-racism conference in Prince George and youth workshops for the Committee of Diverse Educators conference on hatred in Canada
- organized activities for the 50th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights with the Vancouver Public Library
- sponsored the third annual End Racism Awards program in recognition of exemplary anti-racism initiatives throughout the province
- organized "Strategies to End Racism: A How-to Forum" for March 21: Day for the Elimination of Racism

Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch

Executive Director: Mary Beeching

The Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch:

- provides, policy, planning and legislation support for the ministry
- provides research and policy development for consumer protection legislation and regulations
- ensures that ministry programs and services respond to the changing needs and priorities of British Columbians
- ensures the provision of policy and administrative support to the ministry's independent agencies, boards and commissions
- manages the requirements of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions Division

The Agencies, Boards and Commissions Division:

- co-ordinates the relationship between the ministry and its associated agencies, boards and commissions (ABCs)
- provides the minister with policy advice on issues that affect that relationship
- manages the process for order-in-council and ministerial order appointments to the ABCs
- provides administrative support for all commissions established by the government under the Inquiry Act
- serves as the provincial responsibility centre for human rights policy and the responsibility centre for the ministry's equity and diversity initiative.

Key accomplishments

- provided specific assistance to:
  - the Electoral Boundaries Commission in producing its proposals for electoral districts in B.C.
  - the Judicial Compensation Committee in developing its 1998 recommendations regarding compensation for provincial court judges
  - the B.C. Board of Parole in bringing forward required amendments to the Parole Act and in its reorganization

- supported four commissions established under the Inquiry Act:
  - the Royal Commission on Workers' Compensation in B.C.
  - the Commission of Inquiry into the Quality of Condominium Construction in B.C.
  - the Perry Commission (into Six Mile Ranch)
  - the Commission of Inquiry into the Nanaimo Commonwealth Holding Society and Related Matters
- supported the Ministry Executive Sponsor for Equity and Diversity by developing a three-year equity and diversity strategic plan designed to increase the diversity of the ministry's workforce and enhance the capacity of the ministry to provide its services in ways that respond to the needs of B.C.'s diverse population

Policy and Legislation Division

The Policy and Legislation Division:

- provides policy analysis and advice on intergovernmental, inter-ministry and ministry initiatives
- develops and in some cases manages programs and projects that address social and justice issues
- manages the ministry's legislation program, which includes co-ordinating the miscellaneous amendment process for all of government
- provides policy support for cross-agency initiatives such as the Hate Crime Team and the Provincial Prostitution Unit
- leads the development of the ministry's strategic and business plans, and oversees the ministry environmental scanning and public opinion survey activities.

Key accomplishments

- began a co-operative process with the Ministry for Children and Families to monitor and assess the issues involved in historical abuse claims made by adults who as children experienced sexual, physical and emotional abuse in the care of the government
- led the development of amendments to the Family Relations Act to specify that the people who can apply for child custody and access include parents, grandparents, relatives, and others who have a close relationship with the child
- provided policy support for the implementation of a provincial child support strategy and other family justice reform initiatives
- facilitated the signing of a bilateral memorandum of understanding between B.C.'s ministries of Attorney General and Children and Families and the federal government, which sets out a framework for cost-sharing on jointly funded Aboriginal justice programs in B.C.

- legislation enacted included:
  - the Legal Profession Act, which increased the number of lay benchers and gave them increased authority over certain matters
  - Pension Statute Amendment (No. 2) Act, which amends public sector pension statutes to extend public sector pension plan benefits to same-sex partners

Addressing Prostitution and the Sexual Exploitation of Youth

In 1998/99 the Ministry of Attorney General continued to focus on prostitution and the sexual exploitation of youth through police training operations and by providing communities with awareness and prevention resources and assistance in developing local responses.

The Provincial Prostitution Unit was established in 1996. Between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 1998, it directly assisted in obtaining charges against 65 adults buying sex from youth—as compared with an average of one charge per year in the province in the previous eight years. The unit has also assisted and, in some cases, helped establish 12 community action teams across the province, nine of which have developed detailed reports and recommendations on sexually exploited youth and prostitution issues. The addition of a social worker in May 1998 enhanced the unit's ability to train communities in integrated operations for dealing with adults buying sex from youth. In this approach, which has been recognized across Canada as a model, enforcement is combined with the provision of immediate on-site support for the youth being procured.

The ministry co-chaired the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Prostitution, which co-ordinates the development of policies, programs and resources for sexually exploited youth.

In addition, the attorney general has continued to lobby the federal government to improve the enforceability of the Criminal Code so that men buying sex from youth can be held accountable. The federal government responded by tabling Bill C-51, which contained the needed changes to the code, in June 1998. The changes are scheduled to come into force in May 1999.

Consumer Policy and Programs Development Division

The Consumer Policy and Program Development Division provides:

- research and policy development with respect to general consumer protection legislation such as the Trade Practice Act, the Consumer Protection Act and the Sale of Goods Act
- research and policy development with respect to legislation and regulations establishing rights and responsibilities for specific industries such as residential tenancy, cemeteries and funeral services, travel agents and direct sellers
- research and analysis for federal/provincial/territorial discussions and negotiations relating to consumer protection policies and programs
- policy development for new areas of consumer protection in the B.C. marketplace.

Addressing Hate Crime

The Hate Crime Team was established by the attorney general in 1997 to ensure the effective identification, investigation and prosecution of crimes motivated by hate, and to help communities identify and respond to hate activity.

In 1998/99, the Hate Crime Team focused on police training, enforcement assistance and public awareness. It also began work on developing a database for reporting and tracking hate crimes across the province. In addition, the team identified hate on the Internet as a priority, and gave members specialized training on enforcement and legal issues relevant to the Internet, and assisted in identifying areas of law reform required to improve enforcement of Internet crimes.

In June 1998, the attorney general wrote to the federal justice minister asking for changes to the Criminal Code to address hate crime. The reforms would expand the hate propaganda protection to include sexual orientation, and would give police the tools they require in enforcement of Internet hate crimes. These proposals were supported by the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for justice, and the federal justice minister has agreed to undertake the steps necessary to enact these reforms.

Key accomplishments

- amended the Trade Practice Act to give expanded powers to the director of trade practices to issue cease-and-desist orders when a business is engaging in actions that violate the act and to conduct interrogatories where businesses and others are required to provide information to the director regarding matters under investigation
- after extensive consultation with industry stakeholders:
  - amended the Residential Tenancy Act to give arbitrators expanded powers to resolve disputes and to end retroactive rent reviews for manufactured home parks
  - developed a new regulation to be used by mediators and arbitrators to resolve rent increase disputes in manufactured home parks
- contributed to the development of the Co-operative Enforcement Agreement signed by federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for consumer affairs, setting out the procedures for jurisdictions sharing information about consumer complaints

Corporate Issues Division

The Corporate Issues Division is responsible for developing corporate policy responses to legal, justice, public safety and regulatory issues. The division:

- provides the attorney general, the deputy minister and ministry executive with policy advice
- co-ordinates the preparation of briefing materials required by the attorney general and the deputy attorney general for federal/provincial/territorial meetings
- oversees public legal education
- co-ordinates the review of proposals for funding under the Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund
- manages the Employee Recognition Program.

Key accomplishments

- co-ordinated several public forums on reforming the justice system, where the attorney general met with the public, justice partners, stakeholders and students
- continued to provide policy support on a number of ministry initiatives, including the cell phone pilot for women at risk and enhancements to the provincial protection order registry

Information and Privacy Program

The Information and Privacy Program is responsible for the overall management and co-ordination of ministry activities under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The division:

- develops ministry-wide policy and procedures to ensure consistent application of the act across the ministry
- reviews ministry legislation, policy and administrative practices to ensure compliance with the act
- processes freedom of information requests for most ministry branches as well as all cross-ministry and cross-government requests
- represents the ministry in cross-government policy development, issues and initiatives and in matters involving the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
- provides ministry executive and staff and agencies, boards and commissions under the administrative responsibility of the ministry with advice and training.

Public Safety and Regulatory Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Stephen Stackhouse

The Public Safety and Regulatory Branch works to ensure that the province's public police forces and other security-related agencies provide adequate and effective services. The branch also:

- plans and co-ordinates provincial responses to major emergencies and disasters
- audits and inspects gaming activities
- regulates the public exhibition, rental and distribution of films and videos in B.C.

Film Classification Office

The Film Classification Office regulates the public exhibition, rental and distribution of films and videos in B.C. All films shown publicly and all adult videos sold or rented through video retail outlets must be viewed and classified by the Film Classification Office, which has the authority to:

- approve or refuse the exhibition or distribution of a film or adult video
- order the removal of prohibited material
- assign advisory captions that appear in all newspaper advertising of a film.

The office also:

- licenses theatres, film and video distributors, and video retailers
- conducts regular inspections of theatres and video outlets
- is responsible for maintaining community standards in film and video products distributed in B.C.
- monitors legislation, programs and court cases relating to film classification, censorship and obscenity across Canada.

Key accomplishments

- reviewed 579 motion pictures intended for exhibition
- reviewed 16,605 adult motion pictures intended for distribution
- conducted 958 inspections
- issued or renewed 2,257 licences

Gaming Audit and Investigation Office

The Gaming Audit and Investigation Office (GAIO) has a mandate to ensure that gaming in B.C. is conducted honestly and free from criminal and corruptive elements. The office is authorized to investigate any occurrence

that may be of a criminal nature or that may bring lawful gaming into disrepute. To this end, the office:

- conducts background investigations to ensure the suitability of all gaming suppliers, gaming management companies, key personnel and gaming workers involved in the conduct and management of gaming activities in the province
- maintains a database of persons and companies registered to provide the gaming industry with goods and/or services
- at its own discretion, and in response to requests from the B.C. Gaming Commission (BCGC) and the B.C. Lottery Corporation (BCLC), conducts investigations into activities emanating from provincially sanctioned gaming events
- provides investigative services for lengthy or complex cases, or wherever there is a perception of conflict (i.e., where BCGC or BCLC would investigate their own decisions)
- conducts proactive audits and reviews of gaming operations and provides police agencies with assistance in gaming-related investigations.

Key accomplishments

- completed background investigations of 25 gaming management companies, 11 suppliers of gaming goods and services, and 1,538 gaming personnel
- completed investigations into or audits of 13 cases involving gaming operations and 10 cases involving gaming proceeds
- concluded a lengthy negotiation process for the registration of self-managed bingo associations
- began a systems and policy review as a result of the White Paper on Gaming

Police Services Division

The Police Services Division superintends policing and law enforcement functions in B.C. to ensure that an adequate and effective level of policing is maintained throughout the province. The division:

- administers the public funds required to provide police services in rural areas
- oversees the RCMP's contract policing agreements with the 59 municipalities that use the RCMP as their municipal police force
- administers First Nations policing programs
- conducts evaluations of municipal police departments
- liaises with law enforcement agencies throughout the province and leads policing-related legislation and policy initiatives
- analyses reports on provincial crime and police data in B.C.

- administers the photo radar and intersection safety camera programs
- is responsible for setting policy direction and managing non-police law enforcement appointments and activity.

Key accomplishments

- implemented the new Police Act, which was proclaimed on July 1, 1998
- initiated development of the Organized Crime Agency of B.C. in response to the Independent Review Committee Report on Organized Crime in B.C.
- negotiated a new framework agreement with the federal government on First Nations policing and concluded four new First Nations policing agreements with the Tsawwassen and Semiahoo bands, Tl'azt'en Nation and Nak'azdli Band, Takla Lake Indian Band, and Spallumcheen Indian Band
- assumed greater responsibility for road safety law enforcement policies and programs, including photo radar, intersection safety cameras, speed corridor enforcement and CounterAttack
- negotiated with the Vancouver International Airport Authority, the federal government and the City of Richmond to establish the Vancouver Airport policing agreement, which transferred policing responsibility from the federal government to the City of Richmond
- implemented the Auto Theft Task Force to target motor vehicle thefts in the Lower Mainland

Provincial Emergency Program

The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) co-ordinates prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities for civil and natural emergencies. Responsibilities include:

- co-ordination of provincial multi-ministry, multi-agency support for local governments during an emergency response, including national and international assistance
- operation of an Emergency Co-ordination Center (ECC), which co-ordinates provincial response to more than 60 different hazards
- administration of the Emergency Program Act and regulations and management of the provision of disaster financial assistance
- management of the federal/provincial Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) in support of local government emergency programs
- management of the federal/provincial New Initiative Fund (NIF), which supports search and rescue initiatives across Canada
- management of or support for volunteer programs including Search and Rescue, Highway Search and Rescue, Air Search and Rescue, the

B.C. Amateur Radio Service, and Emergency Social Services (in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security).

Security Programs Division

The Security Programs Division administers:

- the firearms control provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada
- the Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act
- the Criminal Records Review Act
- the Central Registry of Protection Orders
- the federal Firearms Act, which came into effect December 1, 1998.

Key accomplishments

- issued 7,500 Firearms Acquisition Certificates and 500 firearms business permits
- trained 6,500 students in firearm safety through the Canadian Firearms Safety Course
- disposed of 5,096 firearms
- issued 5,506 basic security patrol certificates and licensed 205 security patrol businesses
- carried out 60,682 criminal record checks
- responded to 32,000 queries on the Protection Order Registry and entered 74,000 orders for protection

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Note: Many agencies, boards and commissions are required to report annually to the legislature. For more information, please refer to those separate reports.

Advisory Council on Multiculturalism

The Advisory Council on Multiculturalism advises the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism on multiculturalism issues. The 27 volunteer council members are appointed by order in council for a specified term. Council members represent a broad range of ethnocultural communities around the province.

B.C. Board of Parole

The B.C. Board of Parole is an independent, quasi-judicial tribunal that decides whether inmates from provincial correctional centres should be released on parole. Decisions focus on protecting the community and furthering the positive reintegration of offenders into that community.

B.C. Coroners Service

(See box.)

B.C. Human Rights Advisory Council

The B.C. Human Rights Advisory Council is responsible for:

- ensuring that the public is informed about the work of the Human Rights Commission
- bringing public concerns about the human rights system in B.C to the attention of the attorney general and the chief commissioner of the B.C. Human Rights Commission.

B.C. Human Rights Commission

The B.C. Human Rights Commission is an independent administrative agency established under the Human Rights Code to investigate and mediate human rights complaints in relation to employment, services and housing in both the public and private sectors. Where appropriate, the commission refers complaints to the Human Rights Tribunal for hearing. The commission also:

- has a mandate to provide information, education and advice necessary to achieve the purposes of the Human Rights Code

- takes an active role in assisting both the public and private sectors in establishing employment equity programs or other special programs that have as their objective improving conditions for disadvantaged individuals or groups.

B.C. Coroners Service

The B.C. Coroners Service investigates sudden and/or unexpected deaths to ensure that no death is overlooked, concealed or ignored. In all such cases a public report will be issued. The service's mandate is especially directed to the protection of those who are dependent on others for their care and custody. The prevention of future similar deaths or injuries is an important part of the coroner's investigation process.

The B.C. Coroners Service:

- is a fact-finding, not a fault-finding agency
- is an independent service for the people of the community, and
- serves firstly the deceased and relatives and friends of the deceased; secondly, society as a whole; and thirdly, government agencies and other organizations.

The primary purpose of each coroner's investigation is to determine who the deceased was, when the deceased died, where the deceased died, and the means of death (accident, homicide, suicide, natural or undetermined). A coroner's major responsibilities include:

- deciding whether an autopsy and/or toxicology is required to determine the cause of death
- completion of the Coroner's Medical Certification of Death
- investigation and documentation of the circumstances
- deciding whether an inquest should be held
- concluding the investigation by inquest or report of inquiry
- presiding at an inquest when necessary
- presenting recommendations to prevent future loss of life.

B.C. Human Rights Tribunal

The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal is an independent quasi-judicial tribunal established under the Human Rights Code to adjudicate complaints of discrimination in relation to employment, services and housing in both the public and private sectors. The tribunal has broad remedial powers and can reinstate a dismissed employee and order monetary damages against a respondent to an unlimited amount. Its orders are enforceable in the B.C. Supreme Court.

B.C. Review Board

The B.C. Review Board:

- reviews the medical status of persons indefinitely committed to a psychiatric institution by order in council
- examines the circumstances of persons charged with an offence who are found by the courts to be unfit to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity
- determines what steps might be taken, considering the person's mental state and the interests of the public, towards a gradual return of the person to the community.

Children's Commission

The Children's Commission has a mandate to review and resolve complaints concerning the rights of children in care or children receiving services from the Ministry for Children and Families. The commission also:

- monitors the plans of children in care and conducts random audits
- reviews all child fatalities and investigates those found to be suspicious or unusual
- automatically investigates critical injuries of children who are receiving designated services
- provides public education and information.

Commercial Appeals Commission

The Commercial Appeals Commission hears appeals from decisions or orders made under 13 provincial statutes pertaining to cemeteries and funeral services, credit reporting, debt collection, financial institutions, mortgage brokers, motor dealers, travel agents, real estate agents, and societies.

Electoral Boundaries Commission

The Electoral Boundaries Commission is appointed intermittently under the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act to make proposals to the Legislative Assembly concerning the area, boundaries and names of the electoral districts of B.C.

Expropriation Compensation Board

The Expropriation Compensation Board, under the Expropriation Act, sets the amount of money paid for expropriated land when the settlement amount is appealed by the private landowner.

Liquor Appeal Board

The Liquor Appeal Board hears appeals on decisions of:

- the general manager of the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch relating to licensing and enforcement issues
- the general manager of the Liquor Distribution Branch relating to listing and de-listing of liquor products.

Manufactured Home Park Dispute Resolution Committee

The Manufactured Home Park Dispute Resolution Committee provides mediation services for landlords and tenants who have been unable to resolve residential tenancy disputes.

Motion Picture Appeal Board

The Motion Picture Appeal Board assists in the regulation of the film and video industry in B.C. It hears appeals by exhibitors and distributors of motion pictures and videos concerning classification of films, suspension of theatre licences, and refusal to issue theatre or film exchange licences by the Film Classification Branch.

Motor Dealer Customer Compensation Fund Board

The Motor Dealer Customer Compensation Fund Board hears and decides claims against the Motor Dealer Customer Compensation Fund. The fund was created to compensate eligible purchasers of new and used motor vehicles or extended "in house" warranty plans, who suffer a loss as a result of business failure, dishonest behaviour or failure by a motor dealer to provide clear title.

Office of the Public Trustee

The Office of the Public Trustee protects:

- the legal rights and financial interests of children and vulnerable adults
- the estates of deceased and missing persons.

The office may also assist adults in making personal and health care decisions.

Private Investigators and Security Agencies Advisory Board

The Private Investigators and Security Agencies Advisory Board:

- advises the attorney general on matters relating to the Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act
- advises the registrar on policies, procedures and practices in administering the act
- consults with, informs and advises the private security industry about minimum standards and codes of conduct.

Residential Tenancy Arbitration Review Panel

The Residential Tenancy Arbitration Review Panel reviews decisions and orders of arbitrators under the Residential Tenancy Act. Where previously, decisions of arbitrators in rental disputes were final and binding on the parties involved, the review panel now provides landlords and tenants with an additional level of appeal.

Travel Assurance Board

The Travel Assurance Board hears and recommends claims against the Travel Assurance Fund under the Travel Agents Act. The board's seven members include representatives from the public and the travel industry. The Travel Assurance Fund reimburses eligible consumers who have paid for but not received travel services from a B.C.-registered travel agency. The fund is administered by the Consumer Services Division of the Community Justice Branch, and funded by required contributions from eligible travel agencies.

Additional contacts

The ministry has some contact with and the attorney general appoints some board members to the following agencies:

- Continuing Legal Aid Society of B.C.
- Court of Appeal Rules Committee
- Judicial Council
- Justice Development Commission
- Law Courts Education Society of B.C.
- Law Foundation of B.C. Board of Governors
- Legal Services Society
- Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of B.C.
- Notaries Public Board of Examiners
- Notary Foundation Board of Governors
- Supreme Court Rules Committee.

Acts Administered by the Attorney General of British Columbia

Adult Guardianship Act

Age of Majority Act

Attorney General Act

British Columbia Neurotrauma Fund Contribution Act

Cemetery and Funeral Services Act

Child, Family and Community Service Attorney General Act (ss. 83–88)

Child, Youth and Family Advocacy Act

Children's Commission Act

Civil Rights Protection Act

Class Proceedings Act

Commercial Appeals Commission Act

Commercial Arbitration Act

Commercial Tenancy Act

Commissioner on Resources and Environment Act

Condominium Act (all matters affecting powers and duties of Registrar of Titles)

Conflict of Laws Rules for Trusts Act

Constitution Act (except ss. 25–27)

Constitutional Question Act

Consumer Protection Act

Coroners Act

Correction Act (ss. 8, 10–12, 15–17, 19, 22, 33, 34 (1) (a); ss. 1–5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 34 (1) (b)–(g) and (2) and 35 EXCEPT insofar as they relate to young persons as defined in s. 1 of act)

County Boundary Act

Court Agent Act

Court of Appeal Act

Court Order Enforcement Act

Court Order Interest Act

Court Rules Act

Credit Reporting Act

Criminal Injury Compensation Act

Criminal Records Review Act

Crown Counsel Act

Crown Franchise Act

Crown Proceeding Act

Curfew Act

Debt Collection Act

Debtor Assistance Act

Disciplinary Authority Protection Act

Election Act

Electoral Boundaries Commission Act

Electoral Districts Act

Emergency Communications Corporations Act

Emergency Program Act

Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act

Escheat Act

Estate Administration Act

Estates of Missing Persons Act

Evidence Act

Expropriation Act

Family Compensation Act

Family Maintenance Enforcement Act

Family Relations Act

Federal Courts Jurisdiction Act

Financial Disclosure Act

Firearm Act

Flood Relief Act

Food Donor Encouragement Act

Foreign Arbitral Awards Act

Foreign Money Claims Act

Foresters Act (s. 9 (2))

Fraudulent Conveyance Act

Fraudulent Preference Act

Frustrated Contract Act

Good Samaritan Act

Guide Animal Act

Holiday Shopping Regulation Act

Homestead Act

Human Rights Code

Infants Act

Inquiry Act

International Commercial Arbitration Act

International Sale of Goods Act

International Trusts Act

Interpretation Act

Judicial Review Procedure Act

Jury Act

Justice Administration Act

Land (Spouse Protection) Act

Land Title Act (except s. 218 (1) (d))

Land Title Inquiry Act

Land Transfer Form Act

Law and Equity Act

Law Reform Commission Act

Legal Profession Act

Legal Services Society Act

Libel and Slander Act

Limitation Act

Liquor Control and Licensing Act

Members' Conflict of Interest Act

Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Act (ss. 3 and 4 (a) re consumer affairs; s. 4 (b)–(d))

Ministry of International Business and Immigration Act (provisions re immigration)

Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services Act (ss. 2 (1), (2), (5) and (6), 3, 5, 6, 7)

Motion Picture Act

Motor Carrier Act (s. 54)

Motor Dealer Act

Multiculturalism Act

Multilevel Marketing Regulation Act

Municipal Act (Div 2 of Part 15)

Negligence Act

Notaries Act

Occupiers Liability Act

Offence Act

Ombudsman Act

Parole Act

Partition of Property Act

Patients Property Act

Pawnbrokers Act

Perpetuity Act

Police Act

Power of Appointment Act

Power of Attorney Act

Privacy Act

Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act

Probate Recognition Act

Property Law Act

Provincial Court Act

Public Guardian and Trustee Act

Public Trustee Act

Queen's Counsel Act

Recall and Initiative Act

Referendum Act

Refugee Settlement Act

Regulations Act

Rent Distress Act

Representation Agreement Act

Residential Tenancy Act

Sale of Goods Act

Senior Citizen Automobile Insurance Grant Act

Sheriff Act

Small Claims Act

Statute Revision Act

Statute Uniformity Act

Subpoena (Interprovincial) Act

Supreme Court Act

Survivorship and Presumption of Death Act

Trade Practice Act

Travel Agents Act

Trespass Act

Trust and Settlement Variation Act

Trustee Act

Trustee (Church Property) Act

Victims of Crime Act

Wills Act (except Part 2)

Wills Variation Act

Young Offenders (British Columbia) Act

1998/99 ANNUAL BUDGET

	Budget ($)	Staff (#)
Minister's Office	435,000	7.0
Ministry Operations		
Corporate Services	36,303,000	328.0
Court Services Branch	133,269,000	1,351.0
Legal Services Branch	16,173,000	218.0
Criminal Justice Branch	65,473,000	694.0
Community Justice Branch	125,230,000	200.0
Corrections Branch	198,343,000	2,083.0
Public Safety and Regulatory Branch	153,583,000	152.0
Land Title Branch	15,296,000	190.0
Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit	6,030,000	60.0
Multiculturalism and Immigration	8,174,000	30.0
B.C. Human Rights Commission	4,982,000	50.0
B.C. Human Rights Tribunal	1,115,000	8.0
Agencies, Boards and Commissions		
B.C. Police Commission	114,000	0.0
B.C. Parole Board	474,000	4.0
B.C. Board of Review	1,380,000	8.0
Children's Commission	3,026,000	27.0
Commercial Appeals Commission	168,000	1.0
Coroners	8,837,000	40.0
Expropriation Compensation Board	590,000	3.0
Liquor Appeal Board	124,000	1.0
Motion Picture Appeal Board	5,000	0.0
Public Trustee - Voted	4,347,000	20.0

	Budget ($)	Staff (#)
Statutory Services		
Criminal Injury Compensation Act	24,650,000	0.0
Crown Proceeding Act	10,740,000	0.0
Emergency Program Act	11,961,000	0.0
Inquiry Act	2,500,000	0.0
Valuation Allowance	0	0.0
Liquor Control and Licensing	1,000	80.0
Judiciary		
Superior Courts	9,718,000	148.0
Provincial Courts	28,201,000	218.0
Special Accounts		
Office of Public Trustee	11,269,000	162.0
Inmate Work Program	1,492,000	0.0
Forfeited Crime Proceeds	679,000	0.0
Victims of Crime Act	7,253,000	0.0
TOTAL MINISTRY	891,899,000	**6,083.0**

Management Services Branch
Resource Planning and Analysis Division